

007.0504 Speech Language Technician.

007.0504A Grade Levels: ~~Pre-kindergarten~~ Birth to age 21 through grade 12.

007.0504B Endorsement Type: Special Services

007.0504C Persons with this endorsement may provide speech-language services for ~~individuals~~ students from ~~pre-kindergarten~~ birth to age 21; through grade 12; they must be supervised by a certified speech-language pathologist; they may not fulfill the requirements of a speech-language pathologist in 92 NAC 51 for membership on a multi-disciplinary evaluation team and/or an individualized family service plan (IFSP) educational plan team or individual education plan (IEP) team.

007.0504D Certification Endorsement Requirements: This endorsement ~~will~~ requires the applicant to have completed a baccalaureate degree in communication disorders/speech-language pathology.

007.0504E Limited Purpose: This endorsement may be placed only on the Nebraska Provisional Special Services Certificate with validity, terms and renewal options as described for that certificate in 92 NAC 21.

007.04E1 The Provisional Special Services Certificate will be issued for one year to individuals who have completed a baccalaureate degree in communication disorders / speech-language pathology and have submitted evidence of application to a master's degree program in Speech-Language Pathology from an approved institution of higher education.

007.04E2 Renewal of the certificate for a second year requires that the individual has been accepted into a master's degree program leading to completion of requirements for the Speech-Language Pathologist endorsement as per 92 NAC 24, and has filed an approved program of study from the standard institution of higher education granting the master's degree with the Nebraska Department of Education.

007.04E3 Subsequent renewal of the certificate will require that the applicant has completed a minimum of six graduate credit hours identified on the approved plan of study in the year prior to approval, as evidenced by an official transcript from the standard institution of higher education granting the master's

degree.  
007.0504F No Nebraska Standard Institution of Higher Education will be granted approval to offer a program of study leading to this endorsement.

***THERE ARE NO ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES RECOMMENDED FOR  
USE WITH THIS ENDORSEMENT.***

**Ad Hoc Committee Notes:**

Speech Language Technician—Special Services Endorsement

This endorsement was created pre-2000 in response to looking for alternatives to address the need for speech-language services in schools. At the time it was intended to be a short-term/interim solution, and an immediate way to provide services. Those involved in the pre-2000 discussion indicated that some of the intent of the SLT did not get reflected in the current Rule. Intent was that this endorsement would not be available for an extended period of time, but rather to allow individuals to be employed while waiting to get accepted into and complete a SLP program (possibly only three years.) However, it is difficult to complete a SLP masters program in three years, due to time needed to get accepted into a program and class availability. The difficulty increases for someone employed full-time, as needed classes are frequently not available online or during summer sessions.

Concern was expressed about eliminating the SLT endorsement since it allows individuals to be paid on a professional salary schedule as opposed to classified staff. The SLT is probably more desirable because it requires a basic foundational preparation - rather than using a paraprofessional with no training or expecting a SPED teacher with a different endorsement and minimal training for language resource assistance.

Supply of SLPs continues to be a concern. There are approximately 10-15 people who currently hold an SLT Special Services endorsement and do not have a SLP endorsement (as of 9/2011.) One possible solution is to develop language in Rule 21 which would allow individuals with expired certificates to renew their certificate with national certification and employment as an SLP in a non-school setting. Schools continue to have the option to hire non-teaching certified SLPs who hold Nebraska HHS licensure. These individuals will also qualify for SPED reimbursement.

Discussion was held regarding the NSLHA proposal discussed by NDE staff and Association representatives in 2011. The NSLHA proposal was brought to NDE to discuss alternatives to current NDE teacher certification renewal requirements that might assist with recruitment of SLPs to education. The result of the 2011 meetings was a suggestion that current national certification and successful employment experience be viewed as comparable/equivalent for certificate renewal. The NSLHA representatives indicated that this proposed strategy received support from their constituencies and the Ad Hoc committee also indicated support. This conversation will not impact Rule 24 endorsement revision; however, NDE will prepare language for the next Rule 21 revision.

Online programs are becoming more available which may impact current needs. There is a need to get reliable information about shortage/supply (districts reluctant to report shortages/unfilled positions). It would also be good to know how many students need services, but are not getting them due to lack of qualified SLPs. Districts are hesitant to report anything, as they are concerned about how the information would be used.

Grade Levels: Birth-grade 12. Nebraska is a birth-mandate state. Grade 12 assumes the student is entitled to services until the end of the school year in which the student turns 21 years of age, or until the student no longer qualifies for services.

Recommendation that SLT endorsement be revised to clearly communicate that this will only be available to individuals who:

- Have completed a communication disorders/speech-language pathology undergraduate program
- Are accepted into a SLP program during the 1st year of issuance of the 'provisional' certificate
- Are able to renew the 'provisional' certificate for an additional "X#" years IF a minimum of 6 hours specified in an institution-developed/approved Program Completion Plan are completed each year.
- Nonrenewable after X# of years - or if requirements are not met.